



Department of State

TELEGRAM

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EXDIS

E.O. 12065: RDS 1-3-4, 4/1/91 (DRAPER, MORRIS)

TAGS: PGOV, PEPR, MASS, EG, IK, IS

SUBJECT: EGYPT SALES OF AMMUNITION TO IRAQ

1. (S) ENTIRE TEXT.

2. ISRAELI AMBASSADOR EYRON GOT IN TOUCH WITH VELIOTES ON APRIL 1 TO ASK WHAT THE U.S. REACTION WOULD BE TO SADAT'S PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF HIS ARMS SALES TO IRAQ. VELIOTES REPLIED THAT WE WOULD SIMPLY REPEAT OUR WELL-KNOWN POSITION TO THE EFFECT THAT WE HAD NOT TAKEN SIDES IN THE CONFLICT, WE WERE NOT APPROVING THE EXPORT OF EQUIPMENT DESTINED FOR THE MILITARY USE OF EITHER SIDE, WE HAD MADE OUR POSITION CLEAR TO MANY GOVERNMENTS, AND HAD EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT

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THEY WOULD CONDUCT THEMSELVES IN A WAY WHICH DID NOT

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EXDIS REVIEW

Cat. A - Caption removed;
transferred to O7FADRC
Cat. B - Transferred to O7FADRC
with additional access
controlled by S/S
Cat. C - Caption and custody
retained by S/S

Reviewed by: Elijah Kemp Jr. *SK*

Date: 5/18/92

For authority to
release to
C OADR
C OADR
C OADR

Date: 5/22/92

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PROLONG THE WAR.

3. THE FOLLOWING CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE WAS PREPARED FOR USE ON APRIL 1, BUT NO QUESTIONS CAME UP:

Q. WHAT IS YOUR REACTION TO PRESIDENT SADAT'S ANNOUNCEMENT THAT EGYPT IS SELLING AMMUNITION FOR SOVIET-MADE WEAPONS TO IRAQ? DOESN'T THIS RUN COUNTER TO OUR POSITION THAT MILITARY AID SHOULD NOT BE PROVIDED TO EITHER SIDE IN THE IRAN-IRAQ CONFLICT?

A. -- EGYPT HAS NOT SOLD OR TRANSFERRED ANY ARMS OR AMMUNITION SUBJECT TO U.S. CONTROL. THE SALE OF ANY OTHER MILITARY EQUIPMENT IS, OF COURSE, A DECISION FOR EGYPT TO MAKE.

-- OUR POSITION IS CLEAR. WE ARE NOT TAKING SIDES IN THE CONFLICT AND CONTINUE TO URGE THAT A WAY BE FOUND TO END THE HOSTILITIES AND RESOLVE THE DISPUTE THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS. IT IS OUR POLICY NOT TO APPROVE THE SALE OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT, DIRECTLY OR THROUGH THIRD COUNTRIES, TO EITHER IRAQ OR IRAN.

-- WE HAVE DISCUSSED THE SITUATION WITH OUR FRIENDS AND ALLIES IN THE AREA, AND THEY ARE FULLY AWARE OF OUR POSITION. HAIG

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